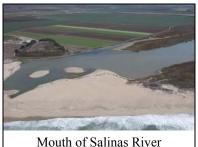
### Salinas River

#### DESCRIPTION

The Salinas River, which originates in San Luis Obispo County, flows northwestward into Monterey County and continues through the entire length of the Salinas Valley. Urbanization, flood control activities, hydromodification of creeks, and mining of sand, gravel, mineral and oil reserves from various locations throughout the watershed are also impacting water resources within the watershed.

Agriculture is the dominant land use throughout the Salinas watershed, and has had serious impacts on water resources. As a result of overpumping for irrigation, seawater has intruded nearly six miles inland in the Castroville area and necessitated abandonment of several water supply wells. Additionally, nitrate contamination is widespread throughout the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin and has been found at high levels in surface water as well.

Urbanization in many areas of the watershed is resulting in increased runoff volumes, velocities, and pollutant levels. The upper Salinas land changes are characterized by increased urbanization along the Salinas River and U.S. 101 corridors, and the proliferation of ranchettes and irrigated crops in surrounding lands. The lower Salinas land changes involve conversion of agricultural land to urban development, and more intensive irrigated farming. Urbanization involves increasing impervious surfaces (paving, buildings), which interrupts the natural cycle of gradual percolation and cleansing of water through vegetation and soil. Instead, water is collected and routed to drainage systems where large volumes of untreated runoff quickly flow to the nearest receiving water. The effects of this process include streambank scouring, sediment deposition, and downstream flooding.



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For more photos, visit: www.californiacoastline.org.

#### REASON FOR CCA IDENTIFICATION

The Salinas River was one of the original CCAs identified in 1995 as an **impaired waterbody that flows into an estuary.** 

#### POLLUTED RUNOFF CONDITIONS

	Top 5 Runoff Pollutants of Concern					Efforts to
	2002 303(d)-Listed Pollutants  TMDL Priority (& Proposed Completion if available)					Address Pollutants (See next page)
Selected Coastal Zone Waterbodies	Fecal Coliform	<u>Nutrients</u>	<u>Pesticides</u>	Salinity/ TDS/ Chlorides	<u>Sediment</u>	
Salinas River, Lower <b>A</b>	<b>▲</b> Low	▲ Medium	▲ Medium	<b>▲</b> Low	▲ Medium	
Blanco Drain ■			■ Medium			
	Potential Sources of Pollutants in Coastal Waterbodies					
Agriculture		<b>A</b>	<b>A</b> •	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	
➤ Crop Production			<b>A</b> •		<b>A</b>	
➤ Agricultural Storm Runoff			▲ ■		<b>A</b>	
➤ Irrigation Tailwater			<b>A</b> •			
➤ Agricultural Return Flows			<b>A</b> =			
➤ Range Grazing					<b>A</b>	
Forestry (Silviculture)						

### Salinas River CCA

Potential sources of Pollutants, continued	<u>Fecal</u> <u>Coliform</u>	Nutrients	Pesticides	Salinity/ TDS/ Chlorides	<u>Sediment</u>	Efforts to Address Pollutants
Urban Areas						a, b
➤ Road Construction					<b>A</b>	
➤ Land Development					<b>A</b>	
Marinas & Boating						
Hydromodification						С
➤ Channel Erosion					<b>A</b>	
Wetlands & Riparian Areas						a, c
<b>Unspecified Nonpoint Source</b>			<b>A</b> =	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	a
Natural Sources				<b>A</b>		
Source Unknown	<b>A</b>					

## MAJOR EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT NPS MANAGEMENT MEASURES

a)	California Sate University Montero	http://watershed.csumb.edu/inde x.html				
	Doug Smith (831) 582-4696			douglas_smith@csumb.edu		
➤ Direct action community-based coalition of researchers, restoration ecologist, educators, planners, students, and volunteers, who work to promote and employ a systems approach to management of watersheds around the world.						
b)	Chualar Creek Pilot Project Water	http://science.csumb.edu/~ccow s/2003/chualar/Chualar.htm				
Chu	alar Creek Watershed Working Group	khuff@surfnetusa.com				
➤ This project was a pilot monitoring project - ahead of a more widespread current effort to provide water quality monitoring support to the Watershed Working Groups of California's Central Coast.						
c)	<b>Upper Salinas Watershed Coalition</b>	http://www.us-ltrcd.com/				
		Donald (DJ) Funk	(805) 434-0396	don.funk@ca.usda.gov		
	➤ In collaboration with the Planning and Conservation League Foundation and the California Conservation Corps, implementing the Upper Salinas River Enhancement Project covering about 6 miles of the river and tributaries.					

### REGULATORY/PLANNING JURISDICTIONS

> Monterey County Water Resources Agency	http://www.mcwra.co.m onterey.ca.us/	Manuel Quezada	(831) 755-4874	quezadam@co.monterey.ca.us
Calif. Coastal Commission, Water Quality Unit	http://www.coastal.ca.g ov/nps/npsndx.html	Ross Clark	(831) 427-4873	rclark@coastal.ca.gov
> Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board	http://www.waterboards _ca.gov/centralcoast/	Amanda Bern	(805) 594-6197	abern@waterboards.ca.gov
> State Water Resources Control Board	http://www.swrcb.ca.go v/	Steve Fagundes	(916) 341-5487	sfagundes@waterboards.ca.gov
> California Coastal Conservancy	http://www.coastalcons ervancy.ca.gov/	Terri Nevins	(510) 286-4161	tnevins@scc.ca.gov
Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game, Marine Region	http://www.dfg.ca.gov/	Kevin Urquhart	(831) 649-2882	kurquhart@dfg.ca.gov
Calif. State Parks, Monterey District	http://www.parks.ca.go v/parkindex/region_info .asp?regiontab=0&id=6	Tom Moss	(831) 649-2854	tmoss@parks.ca.gov

# **Salinas River CCA**